

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM****SUBJECT:** Park Name – Wekiva (Hutchinson) Property – Wilson's Landing Park**DEPARTMENT:** Library & Leisure Services**DIVISION:** Parks & Recreation**AUTHORIZED BY:** J. Goldman **CONTACT:** J. Suzy Goldman **EXT.** 7490**Agenda Date** 11/12/02 **Regular** ☐ **Consent** ☒ **Work Session** ☐ **Briefing** ☐
Public Hearing – 1:30 ☐ **Public Hearing – 7:00** ☐**MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve proposed park name for Wekiva (Hutchinson) property – Wilson's Landing Park

BACKGROUND:

On January 9, 2001 the BCC approved the conceptual design for the development of the Wekiva (Hutchinson) property, which was purchased as part of the Natural Lands program. The conceptual design preferred by area residents and approved by the BCC includes the following elements:

Pavilion
Picnic area
Restroom

Design phase is completed. Bids were received on October 16, 2002.

The Wilson family name has strong ties to the Wekiva (Hutchinson) property. Thomas E. Wilson operated the first official ferry to cross the Wekiva River at the site in the 1880's. The Seminole County Historical Commission has agreed to install a historical marker at this site to explain to visitors the significance of the name and place.

Consistent with naming policy approved by the BCC via resolution on October 9, 2001, the proposed name was submitted to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for consideration on October 9, 2002. It was approved that day.

Reviewed by:
Co Atty: _____
DFS: _____
Other: _____
DCM: JS
CM: KB

File No. CLLP01

ATTACHMENT "A"

PROPOSAL FOR THE NAMING OF A SEMINOLE COUNTY PARK OR RELATED FACILITY

*This form is to be completed and submitted to the Seminole County Library * Leisure Services Department for consideration of a potential name for a park site, amenity or facility. Final authority for the renaming of a park site, amenity or facility rests with the Board of County Commissioners.*

1. Individual Submitting: J. Suzy Goldman
Group/Organization: Library & Leisure Services
Seminole County Board of County Commissioners
Address: 1101 East First Street
City, State, Zip Code: Sanford, Florida 32771
E-Mail: _____
2. Site Location: Hutchinson Property
Amenity/Facility Location: _____
Current name (if applicable): _____
3. Proposed Name of Site/Amenity/Facility: Wilson's Landing Park
4. Reasons for recommendation of proposed name. Include information regarding civic involvement of honoree, historical context of honoree in Seminole County community and related information. (Copies of documentation supporting this information may be attached to this document for consideration).
Historical context (See attached).
5. Additional information/comments to be reviewed as part of this proposal.


Signature of Submitter

7/3/02
Date of Submission

Thomas E. Wilson is credited with applying to the County Commissioners for a five-year license for the first official ferry to cross the Wekiva River on December 5, 1880. The Wilson's ferry permit was reissued on November 2, 1885 for \$200. The ferry operated at or in very close proximity to the Hutchinson property now being developed as a County park. For a time, the area around the landing was known as Wilson's Corner.

The Orange Belt Railroad's depot at Sylvan Lake was at the current intersection of State Road 46 and County Road 431. The post office, run by lawyer Thomas E. Wilson, was at the southwest corner of Wayside Drive and C.R. 431. Wilson served for a time as state attorney, lived next door and kept law offices in Sanford and Sylvan Lake.

Wilson Elementary School was built to the south, on land donated by the Wilson family. The red brick schoolhouse was razed as part of the school expansion, but former principal Terry Rabun, whose grandfather hauled the bricks and mortar to build the school more than 50 years ago, saved the stained glass windows and wrought iron lanterns for use in a belfry at one of the new buildings.

The Wilson family name also is associated with a steamboat wharf at the site of today's Port of Sanford on the St. Johns River. It was there that boats brought the community's mail.

The Seminole County Historical Commission has agreed to install a historic marker at this site to explain to visitors the significance of the name and place.

Source: Jim Robison and Mark Andrews, Flashbacks: The Story of Central Florida's Past (Orlando: Orange County Historical Society and the Orlando Sentinel, 1995) 81-82.